SEASONS ROAD WATER ASSOCIATION (PWSNO 1280171) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT

November 20, 2001



State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Disclaimer: This publication has been developed as part of an informational service for the source water assessments of public water systems in Idaho and is based on the data available at the time and the professional judgement of the staff. Although reasonable efforts have been made to present accurate information, no guarantees, including expressed or implied warranties of any kind, are made with respect to this publication by the state of Idaho or any of its agencies, employees, or agents, who also assume no legal responsibility for the accuracy of presentations, comments, or other information in this publication. The assessment is subject to modification if new data is produced.

Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the act. This risk assessment is based on a land use inventory in the well recharge zone, sensitivity factors associated with how the well was constructed, and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Seasons Road Water Association*, describes the public drinking water well; the well recharge zone and potential contaminant sites located inside the recharge zone boundaries. This assessment, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, should be used as a planning tool to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this public water system. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should <u>not be</u> used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

A 460-foot deep well pumping from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer supplies Seasons Road Water Association drinking water. The water system serves a population of about 25 people in a residential neighborhood about 1.5 miles east of Highway 41 near Spirit Lake, Idaho. Historically, Seasons Road Water Association has had few water quality problems. The presence of the volatile organic chemicals Ethylbenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Toluene and Xylenes detected in a sample drawn August 17, 1993 was not confirmed when the well was re tested in March 1994. A ground water susceptibility analysis conducted by DEQ September 11, 2001 found the well to be moderately susceptible to all classes of regulated contaminants, mostly because of natural risk factors associated with local geology.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or reevaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

Because 186 public water systems in Idaho draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, they should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should also be established.

In its own service area the Seasons Road Water Association needs to complete the improvements outlined in the June 1995 Sanitary survey of the system. The association should promote a cross connection control program. Automatic sprinkler systems and stock tanks are the likeliest sources of back flow problems in a semi rural neighborhood. Proper septic system maintenance is another important topic for ground water protection education in the service area.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. For assistance in developing protection strategies, please contact your regional Department of Environmental Quality office or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR SEASONS ROAD WATER ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

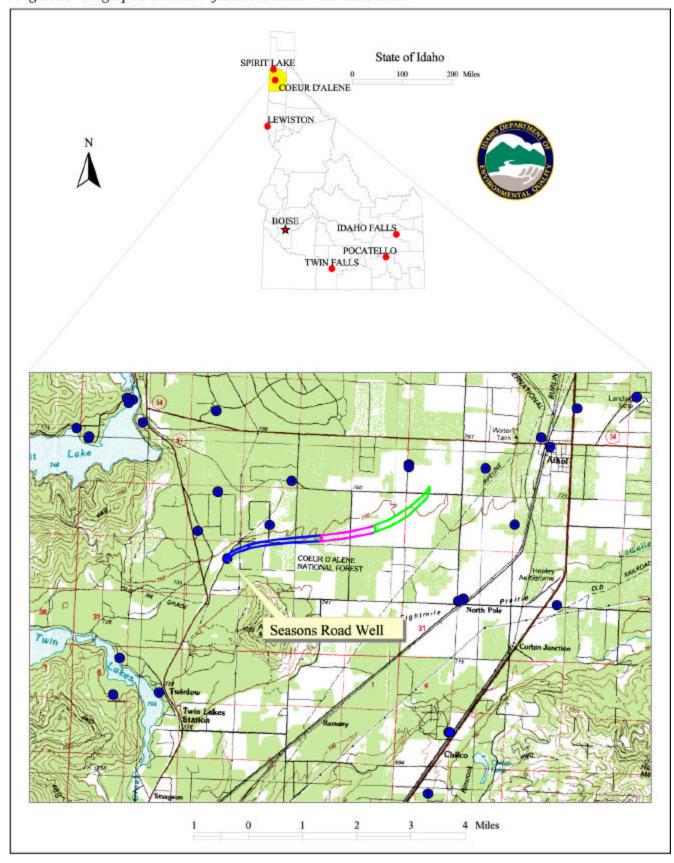
The following sections contain information necessary for understanding how and why this assessment was conducted. It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means. A map showing the delineated source water assessment area and an inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are included. The ground water Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet used to develop this assessment is attached.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every public drinking water source in Idaho for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. These assessments are based on a land use inventory inside the delineated recharge zones, sensitivity factors associated with how the well is constructed, and aquifer characteristics. The state must complete more than 2900 assessments by May of 2003. Because resources and the time available to accomplish assessments are limited, an in-depth, site-specific investigation for every public water system is not possible.

The results of the source water assessment should <u>not be</u> used as an absolute measure of risk and they should <u>not be</u> used to undermine public confidence in the water system. The ultimate goal of this assessment is to provide data to local communities for developing a protection strategy for their drinking water supply. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treating a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Seasons Road Water Association



Section 2. Preparing for the Assessment

Defining the Zones of Contribution - Delineation

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the well recharge area into time of travel zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water flowing through the aquifer to reach a well). DEQ used a refined computer model approved by the EPA to determine the time of travel (TOT) for water pumped from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The computer model used data assimilated by DEQ from a variety of sources including local well logs and pumping volume estimates.

Seasons Road Water Association is a community water system with 25 connections serving a residential area east of Highway 41 near Spirit Lake. (Figure 1). A 460-foot deep well located on a 50-foot radius well lot, supplies public drinking water for the Association's customers. The estimated capacity of the well is 28 GPM.

The source water assessment delineation for the Seasons Road Water Association well encompasses about 247 acres. The recharge zone curves eastward and north from the well for about 4 miles, terminating near the intersection of Remington and Raptor roads. The recharge zone is divided into three time of travel zones, 0-3, 3-6 and 6-10 years (Figure 2).

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of ground water contamination. Inventories for all public water systems in Idaho were conducted in two-phases. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within a system's source water assessment area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System maps developed by DEQ. Maps showing the delineations and tables summarizing the results of the database search were then sent to system operators for review and correction during the second or enhanced phase of the inventory process. Information from the public water system file was also incorporated into the potential contaminant inventory. The map and inventory for Seasons Road Water Association were reviewed Clarence Poling.

Figure 2, Seasons Road Water Association Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory on page 7 of this report shows the location of the Seasons Road Water Association well, the zone of contribution DEQ delineated for it, and potential contaminant sites in the vicinity. Land use inside the delineation boundaries is primarily suburban or rural residential. Homes in the area have individual septic systems.

Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. When a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the <u>potential</u> for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation.

Section 3. Susceptibility Analysis

The susceptibility to contamination of all ground water sources in Idaho is being assessed on the following factors:

- physical integrity of the well,
- hydrologic characteristics,
- land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources
- historic water quality

The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. A high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking. The Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet for the Seasons Road Water Association well, Attachment A, shows in detail how the well was scored.

Well Construction

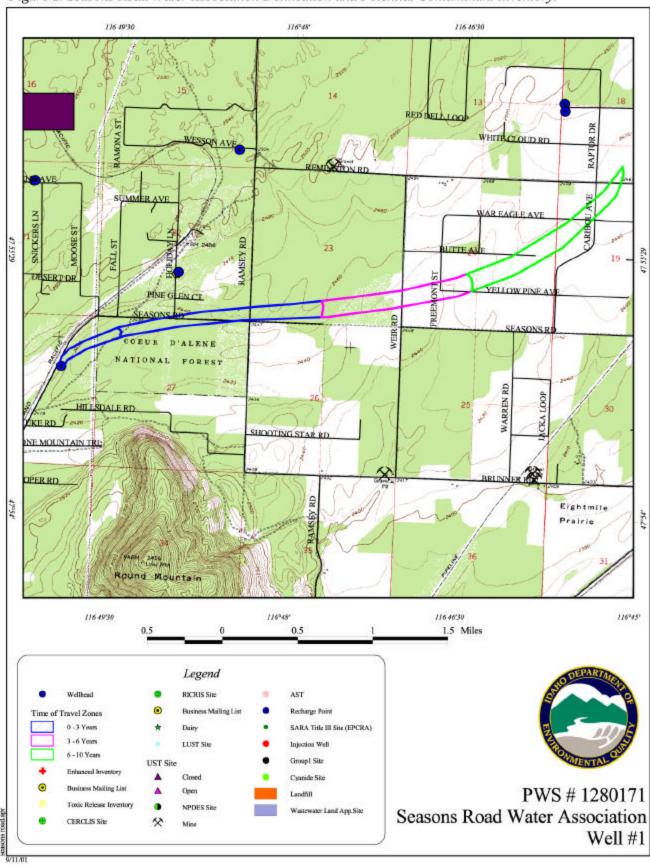
Well construction directly affects the ability of the wells to protect the aquifer from contaminants. Lower scores imply a well that can better protect the water. This portion of the susceptibility analysis relies on information from individual well logs and from the most recent sanitary survey of the public water system. The Seasons Road Water Association well log is in the public water system files maintained by Panhandle Health No deficiencies in wellhead and surface seal maintenance were noted during the sanitary survey dated June 13, 1995.

The Seasons Road Water Association well was drilled in 1978 to a depth of 460 feet. The un-perforated 8-inch steel casing extends from a foot above ground to the full depth of the well, terminating in a gravel and sand soil layer. The well log does not mention the depth of the clay and well cuttings surface seal, so it is not possible to determine whether current Department of Water Resources construction standards are met. The static water level in the well is about 419 feet below ground, with the pump reportedly set at 450 feet.

Table 1. Selected Construction Characteristics of Seasons Road Water Association Well

Well	Total Depth	Depth of Surface	Depth of Casing	Static Water	Pumping
	(ft.)	Seal (ft)	(ft)	Level (ft	Level (ft)
Well #1	460	unknown	460	419	450

Figure 2. Seasons Road Water Association Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory.



Hydrologic Sensitivity

Hydrologic sensitivity scores reflect natural geologic conditions at the well site and in the recharge zone. Information for this part of the analysis is derived from individual well logs and from the soil drainage classification inside the delineation boundaries. The Seasons Road Water Association well scored 5 points out of 6 points possible in the hydrologic sensitivity portion of the susceptibility analysis.

Soils in the recharge zone generally are classed as moderately well to well drained. Soils that drain rapidly are deemed less protective of ground water than slow draining soils. When the well was drilled, ground water was first encountered between 415 and 430 feet. Sand and gravel predominate in the soil strata between the surface and the water table. The well log reports some clay mixed in with the coarser soil, and a stratum composed exclusively of clay between 10 and 14 feet below the surface.

Potential Contaminant Sources and Land Use

Figure 2, Seasons Road Water Association Delineation and Potential Contaminant Inventory on page 7 shows the location of the Seasons Road Water Association well, and the zone of contribution DEQ delineated for it. Land use inside the delineation boundaries is residential, with homes on individual septic systems. Locations of homes and septic systems relative to the well are not on file with DEQ. The water association has an easement to control the 50-foot well lot.

The rail lines about 300 feet west of the well fall outside of the well recharge zone DEQ delineated for Season Road Water Association. County roads crossing the delineation boundaries were discounted as significant potential contaminant sources because they carry only low volume local traffic.

Historic Water Quality

Seasons Road Water Association has had few water quality problems. Positive bacterial samples from distribution system sites have not been confirmed in follow up testing. The system tests monthly for total coliform bacteria. DEQ has granted the association waivers to reduce the amount of testing required for synthetic organic compounds. The volatile organic chemicals Ethylbenzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Toluene and Xylenes were present in a sample drawn August 17, 1993. A degreasing solvent used to clean a valve was the apparent source of the contaminants. None of the chemicals were detected when the water was retested in March 1994. Radiological contaminants in concentrations far below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) were present in samples tested in 1993 and 1995. Nitrates have not been detected in annual samples since 1997. No other regulated inorganic chemicals have been present in the water.

Final Susceptibility Ranking

The Seasons Road Water Association well ranked moderately susceptible to all classes of regulated contaminants, mostly because of natural risk factors associated with the geology of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Totals for system construction and hydrologic sensitivity along with the cumulative scores for land use and potential contaminant sites are shown on Table 2.

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)
- 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.35)

The final ranking categories are as follows:

- 0 5 Low Susceptibility
- 6 12 Moderate Susceptibility
- > 13 High Susceptibility

The complete Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet for the Seasons Road Water Association well can be found in Attachment A.

Table 2. Summary of Seasons Road Water Association Susceptibility Evaluation

Cumulative Susceptibility Scores									
Well Name	System Construction	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory						
			IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbial			
Well #1	4	5	1	1	1	1			
Final Susceptibility Ranking									
	IOC		VOC		SOC	Microbial			
Well #1	Moderate M		Ioderate	Mo	derate	Moderate			

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

HIGH* - Indicates source automatically scored as high susceptibility due to presence of bacteria or a VOC, SOC or an IOC above the maximum contaminant level in the tested drinking water

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program is tailored to the particular local source water protection area. The State of Idaho and local health districts have instituted enhanced protection of the ground water in the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer because of its high use and uniquely pristine water quality. The protections are generally aquifer wide and are not aimed at zones of contribution to a specific well or water system. *The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Atlas*, sent to water systems on the prairie when they were invited to perform an enhanced contaminant inventory, describes some of the regional protection measures.

The 186 public water systems in Idaho that draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. These types of measures could be used to protect the capture zones of a specific system or group of wells that could be put at risk from local land use changes.

When it was inspected in June 1995, the Seasons Road Water Association system was mostly in compliance with *Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems*. The Sanitary Survey recommended installing a vent on the well casing; screening the drain for the shed over the well; and sealing the distribution line casing where it exits the pump house. The association holds an easement to control the sanitary setback (50-foot radius) around the well, and should continue to maintain this zone as an area free from the use or storage of solvents, paint, petroleum products, fertilizers herbicides and pesticides. In its service area, the association should encourage customers to inspect and maintain their septic systems to prevent ground water contamination. The association also needs to promote back flow prevention. Back flow from stock tanks and automatic sprinkler systems are the main concerns in a semi rural neighborhood.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, wellhead protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term.

Assistance

Public water suppliers and users may call the following IDEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the IDEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Coeur d'Alene Regional DEQ Office (208) 769-1422

State IDEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: http://www.deq.state.id.us

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact John Bokor, Idaho Rural Water Association, at (208) 343-7001 for assistance with wellhead protection strategies.

References Cited

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997. "Recommended Standards for Water Works."

Idaho Department of Agriculture, 1998. Unpublished Data.

Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, 1994. Ground Water and Soils Reconnaissance of the Lower Payette Area, Payette County, Idaho. Ground Water Quality Technical Report No. 5. Idaho Division of Environmental Quality. December 1994.

Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, 1996. Lower Payette River Agriculture Irrigation Water Return Study and Ground Water Evaluation, Payette County, Idaho. Water Quality Status Report No. 115.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1997. Design Standards for Public Drinking Water Systems. IDAPA 58.01.08.550.01.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2000. City of Fruitland Wellhead Viability Project 319 Grant Final Report July 2000.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2000. The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas.

Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1993. Administrative Rules of the Idaho Water Resource Board: Well Construction Standards Rules. IDAPA 37.03.09.

Natural Resource Conservation Service, 1991. Idaho Snake-Payette Rivers Hydrologic Unit Plan of Work. March 1991.

United States Geological Survey, 1986. Quality of Ground Water in the Payette River Basin, Idaho. United States Geological Survey. Water Resources Investigation Report 86-4013.

University of Idaho. 1986. Ground Water Resources in a Portion of Payette County, Idaho. Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho. April 1986.

Attachment A

Seasons Road Water Association Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

Ground Water Susceptibility Public Water System Name:

9/11/01 2:03:02 PM Public Water System Number: 1280171 1. System Construction SCORE Drill Date 7/30/ YES Driller Log Available Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey) YES 1995 Well meets IDWR construction standards NO Wellhead and surface seal maintained YES 0 Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit NO/UNKNOWN Highest production 100 feet below static water level NO Well located outside the 100 year flood plain YES 0 Total System Construction Score 4 2. Hydrologic Sensitivity Soils are poorly to moderately drained NO 2 Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock YES Depth to first water > 300 feet YES Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness NO 2 Total Hydrologic Score 5 IOC VOC SOC Microbial 3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A (Sanitary Setback) Score Score Score Score Land Use Zone 1A Suburban Residential 1 1 1 1 Farm chemical use high NO 0 0 0

WELL #1

Source:

SEASONS ROAD WATER ASSN

IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		1	1	1	1
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B (3 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
4 Points Maximum		0	0	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II (6 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Sources Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		0	0	0	0
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III (10 YR. TOT)					
Contaminant Source Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Microbials	NO	0	0	0	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy $> 50\%$ of Zone	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		0	0	0	0
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		1	1	1	1
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		9	9	9	9
5. Final Well Ranking		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

<u>AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks)</u> – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

<u>Business Mailing List</u> – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

<u>CERCLIS</u> – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as Superfund is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

<u>Cyanide Site</u> – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

<u>Dairy</u> – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

<u>Deep Injection Well</u> – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain - This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

<u>Group 1 Sites</u> – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

<u>Inorganic Priority Area</u> – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

<u>Landfill</u> – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

<u>LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank)</u> – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

<u>Mines and Quarries</u> – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

<u>Nitrate Priority Area</u> – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point

source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

<u>Organic Priority Areas</u> – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

<u>RICRIS</u> – Site regulated under <u>Resource Conservation Recovery</u> <u>Act (RCRA)</u>. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

<u>UST (Underground Storage Tank)</u> – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

<u>Wastewater Land Applications Sites</u> – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

<u>Wellheads</u> – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.